



# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE  
HEALTH OF THE WEST KESTIVEN  
RURAL DISTRICT

BY THE  
Medical Officer of Health  
C. H. D. ROBBS, M.B.

TO WHICH IS APPENDED  
THE REPORT OF THE  
Acting Chief Sanitary Inspector  
T. W. MAWER, M.I.M. & Cy. E., M. Inst. R.A.,  
Cert. R. San. I.

1944

# HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

## STAFF

### Medical Officer of Health :

C. H. D. ROBBS, M.B.

### Acting Chief Sanitary Inspector :

T. W. MAWER, M.I.M. & Cy. E., M. Inst. R.A., Cert. R. San. I.

### Chief Sanitary Inspector :

J. DEAN, M.S.I.A., A.R. San. I., A.F.S. (on Active Service).

### Temporary Additional Sanitary Inspector and

### Assistant Surveyor :

S. J. MORRIS, (from Feb. 7th, 1944, to Oct. 31st 1944).

A. T. BRALEY, (from Dec. 4th 1944, to Dec. 31st 1944).

### Junior Assistant :

A R HOLMES (Prisoner of War).

### Clerks :

R. P. COX (on Active Service).

S. J. SIMMS do.

P. S. PARKER.

Mrs. A. J. BREDAEL (Part time).

VINE HOUSE,  
GRANTHAM

*July, 1945.*

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

The Report for 1944 will be rather fuller than that of 1943, and the Vital Statistics will be more complete than those for the three preceding years, and are included in tabular form at the beginning of the Report.

The estimated population of your district is 15,930, rather more than a thousand than in the year 1940. The birthrate is seen to be definitely higher than the average for the country, 19.9 as compared with 15.8, whilst the death rate and infantile death rate are rather below the average.

Illegitimate births numbered 29, rather over 9 per cent. In the years immediately preceding the year 1939, the average illegitimate rate worked out at approximately 4 per cent.

The general health of the district during the year was definitely good, in spite of 5 years of the European war.

The mortality returns are included and show a very small incidence of deaths from infectious diseases. There were no maternal deaths, and fatal cases of tuberculous disease only numbered five.

Of general conditions affecting the area, the question of water supply has been prominently before your Committee, and at the time this Report is written on 2nd July, 1945, is engaging the serious attention of the Rural District Council.

Housing also is a problem in your area, as indeed it is throughout the country, and is receiving serious attention.

Of other matters affecting the health of the district, it is satisfactory to state that scabies has been much less prevalent, and the treatment of this complaint has been energetically carried out at a Grantham centre.

Venereal disease has been an anxious problem during the war. It is not possible to obtain local statistics of the incidence of the disease, and it is probable that more information will be supplied by the Kesteven County Council. Diphtheria immunization has been regularly carried out by the Medical Practitioners resident in the district. It is estimated that 80 per cent. of children of school age, and 70 per cent. of those between the ages of 5 and 1 have received treatment.



## INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The list of notifications during the year is as follows:—

Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	5
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	6
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	2
Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	2
Ophthalmia Neonatorum			...	...	...	3
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	1
Whooping Cough		...	...	...	...	5
Pulmonary Tuberculosis			...	...	...	7
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis			...	...	...	4

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35.

This is a very satisfactory list. Five cases only of Scarlet Fever, three being sent to the Isolation Hospital at Grantham. No case of Diphtheria. Two only of Puerperal Fever, both recovering well after hospital treatment make a very small list. Three cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum all recovered well, with vision unimpaired. There was no maternal death following confinement.

## TUBERCULOSIS

Notifications of Pulmonary Tuberculosis numbered 7, and other forms of Tuberculosis, 4. Deaths of 5 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis occurred. These cases are tabulated both by incidence and by termination respectively with regard to sex and age.

Statistics with regard to Tuberculosis must be considered very satisfactory so far as your district is concerned.

Your faithfully,

CHARLES H. D. ROBBS,

Medical Officer of Health.

## TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1944.

Age Periods			NEW CASES				DEATHS			
			Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
			M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	...	...	...
20	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
25	...	...	3	...	...	...	1	1	...	...
35	...	...	2	...	...	1	2	...	...	...
45	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
55	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
65 and upwards	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	...	...	5	2	2	2	4	1	...	...

## CAUSE OF DEATHS YEAR ENDING 31/12/44

						M	F	Total
1.	Typhoid Parat: Fevers	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
2.	Cerebro-spinal Fever	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
3.	Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
4.	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
5.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
6.	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System...	...	...	...	...	4	1	5
7.	Tuberculosis (other forms)	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
8.	Syphilitic diseases	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
9.	Influenza	...	...	...	...	3	3	6
10.	Measles	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
11.	Polio-myel. and Polio-enceph:	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
12.	Ac: inf: enceph	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
13.	Cancer of buc cav: and oesoph (m)	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
	Cancer of buc: cav: and uterus (f)	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
14.	Cancer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	...	2	2	4
15.	Cancer of breast	...	...	...	...	—	3	3
16.	Cancer of all other sites	...	...	...	...	7	6	13
17.	Diabetes	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
18.	Intra-cranial vascular lesions	...	...	...	...	9	22	31
19.	Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	25	22	47
20.	Other diseases of circ. system	...	...	...	...	6	2	8
21.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	3	7	10

22.	Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	2	3	5
23.	Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	—	3	3
24.	Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	...	...	...	...	...	2	—	2
25.	Diarrhoea under 2 years	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
26.	Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
27.	Other Digestive diseases	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	4
28.	Nephritis	...	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
29.	Puer and Post-abortion, sepsis	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
30.	Other maternal causes	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
31.	Premature Births	...	...	...	...	...	3	4	7
32.	Con. mal: birth inj.: infant dis:	...	...	...	...	...	3	—	3
33.	Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
34.	Road Traffic Accidents	...	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
35.	Other violent causes	...	...	...	...	...	4	1	5
36.	All other causes	...	...	...	...	...	19	9	28
Total							98	91	189

## WEST KESTEVEN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

### STATISTICAL SUMMARY FOR 1944

Population (estimated for the year)	15,930
Area	122,406 acres
Rateable Value	£65,756
Estimated Product of Penny Rate	£281

		Total	Males	Females
BIRTHS	...	302	147	155
Legitimate	...	273	133	140
Illegitimate	...	29	14	15
Stillbirths	...	7	5	2
DEATHS	...	189	98	91
Infantile Deaths	...	13	8	5
Legitimate	...	13	8	5
Illegitimate	...	—	—	—
BIRTH RATE	...	19.9 per 1,000 per annum		
Av. for England & Wales		17.6 per 1,000 per annum		
DEATH RATE	...	11.2 per 1,000 per annum		
Av. for England & Wales		11.6 per 1,000 per annum		
INFANTILE DEATH RATE		43.0 per 1,000 per annum		
Av. for England & Wales		46.0 per 1,000 per annum		



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR  
FOR THE YEAR 1944

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PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,  
19, WATERGATE,  
GRANTHAM.

*To the Chairman and Members of the West Kesteven  
Rural District Council.*

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of work carried out during the year ended 31st December, 1944.

The routine work of the Public Health and Surveyor's Department has been carried out during the year in addition to the Emergency Duties due to the War, and further duties in connection with Town and Country Planning, Post-War Housing Sites, and Certificates of Essentiality for the war-time repair of houses, have been added during the year.

Four members of the staff are still on active service, and for a portion of the year the Sanitary Department was without an additional Sanitary Inspector, and therefore for the remainder of the year the work had to be carried on with the assistance of a part-time clerk and a junior clerk.

I must state that without the assistance rendered by the Clerk of the Council the help and guidance given by each individual member of the Council and the co-operation readily given by other Departments, and the diligent way in which the staff of the Department have carried out their duties, it would at times have been almost impossible to cope with the volume of work.

For many reasons this Report must be of a somewhat brief nature, and it will not be until the conclusion of hostilities that a complete report can be presented of the war period.

I am, Sir, Madam and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant

T. W. MAWER,  
Sanitary Inspector, Surveyor and  
Water Engineer

## SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS.

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The total number of inspections carried out during the year were 1,408, details of which are appended in the following table:

Inspections for Housing Defects	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	103
Re-inspections and visits to work in progress (including re-conditioning of houses under the Housing (Rural Workers') Act 1926	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	78
Moveable Dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
New Buildings (Supervision under the Building Bye-Laws)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Factories and Workshops, including Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Slaughter-houses and Foodshops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Knackers' Yards	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Cowsheds and Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	74
Milk Samples for Analysis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Water Supplies	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	204
Samples of Water taken for Analysis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Overcrowding, inspections and investigations	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Council House Repairs, routine inspection and supervision	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	351
Sewerage and Sewerage Disposal	}	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	109
Sewer Dykes, supervision and cleansing		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Number of Drains inspected	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	29
Number of Drains tested	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Scavenging	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	81
Infectious Diseases and Disinfections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Verminous Premises and Disinfestations	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Petroleum Stores	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Rat Destruction	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	52
Salvage	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	141
Air-Raid Shelters	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Air Raid Precautions	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Fire Service	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Mortuaries	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Stables and Piggeries	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Repair of War Damage	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Food Decontamination	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Iron Railings Survey	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Fire Guard	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Miscellaneous Inspections, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	28
Total										1,408

### NOTICES SERVED

Eleven Intimation Notices or letters were sent, dealing with 14 premises.



## HOUSING, 1944

**1. - Inspection of Dwelling-Houses during the year:**

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health or Housing Acts)	17
(b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose ...	29
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses included under sub-head (1) above, which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932	Nil
(b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose ...	Nil
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...	3
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...	8

**2.—Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices.**

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ...	8
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**3.—Action under Statutory Powers during the year.***A.—Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act 1936.*

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ...	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners ...	Nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	Nil

*B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts.*

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied after service of formal notices ...	1
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners ...	1
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	Nil

*C.—Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.*

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition orders were made	...	...	...	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	...	Nil

*D.—Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.*

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	Nil
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	...	Nil

**4.—Housing Act, 1936.—Part IV. Overcrowding. (1936 Survey).**

(a)	(i)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	24
	(ii)	Number of families dwelling therein	24
	(iii)	Number of persons dwelling therein	174
(b)		Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year...	3
(c)	(i)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	3
(d)		Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	Nil
(e)		Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report	Nil

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## HOUSING AND PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS

The work of 1944 has almost entirely consisted of the abatement of nuisances and the execution of essential repairs, in order that a reasonable standard of housing was maintained.

Grants were approved during the year in connection with alterations and additions to five cottages under the Housing (Rural Workers') Acts, 1926 to 1938.

The eighteen Agricultural Workers' Cottages in nine parishes commenced in 1943 were completed during the year.



Ten Certificates of Essentiality were issued during the year for repair of houses under Circular 2871.

## WATER SUPPLY

The Water Supplies in the various parishes have been properly maintained during the year. The Public Supplies in parts of your district continued satisfactorily, the samples of water submitted to the Public Analyst proved that the supplies were bacteriologically pure, with the exception of the supply at Burton Coggles, and this proved to be of unsatisfactory bacterial quality for human consumption, domestic use, and dairy purposes, and the inhabitants have been advised to boil all water before use. The village of Ropsley has a temporary chlorination plant installed, but as the rate of insertion of the chlorine cannot be regulated accurately to the supply required this cannot be regarded as satisfactory, as the water is only at times bacteriologically pure and the public are advised to boil water before use.

At Skillington a new electrically-driven pump has been installed to replace the worn out hydraulic ram to raise the water to the reservoir in the village, the result being very satisfactory.

The water has had to be controlled in some of the parishes during the summer in order to maintain an adequate supply.

Water has had to be carted six days a week to the parishes of Long Bennington, Wesborough and Dry Doddington, and it will be appreciated that this system is very unsatisfactory, and a more adequate supply with better distribution is necessary.

The majority of the water supplies in the other villages are obtained from wells, which are usually found to be of the shallow type and must be looked upon with grave suspicion. Examinations of this type of well have been carried out and samples of water taken for analysis.

As the district is not favourably endowed with an abundant supply of water satisfactory for public supplies, a considerable amount of time must be spent in ensuring that the existing supplies are safe. However, the public are apt to overlook the dangers of not boiling water when advised to do so, on the grounds that the water has been drunk for years by the same family without any harmful effects being observed.

The number of consumers supplied from the public water mains direct to the houses is 401, and the number supplied by means of stand pipes is 632.



New connections to the Council's public supply were made during the year, as follows:

Barrowby	...	...	...	...	5
Claypole, Stubton and Fenton			...	...	5
Colsterworth	...	...	...	...	1

## SEWERS AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The Sewage Disposal Works at Barrowby are overloaded and not in proper working condition, and a more adequate Sewage Disposal Works is required.

At Claypole the Sewage Works were found to be in a very unsatisfactory condition and as a temporary measure, an additional settling tank and other works have been installed, but in the near future a more adequate and up-to-date Sewage Works is necessary.

The Sewage is not properly treated in all the remaining parishes and sewerage schemes are urgently needed throughout the district.

All the sewer dykes and septic tanks have been cleaned out at intervals, although difficulty was experienced in obtaining the necessary labour.

## REFUSE DISPOSAL AND SALVAGE

Again attention must be drawn to the need of a public scavenging scheme throughout your area, as the public have to bury their refuse or deposit it in ditches and on the road-sides.

Special thanks are due to the many voluntary helpers, the Rural members of the Women's Voluntary Services, School Teachers, Schoolchildren and members of the Women's Institute for the splendid work they have done in this connection.

This year has shown a further decrease in the collection of salvage in most of the villages, particularly in the collection of waste paper and textiles. During the year a direction was received from the Ministry of Supply to discontinue the collection of ferrous metal.

The amount of salvage sold during the year is as follows:

				TonsCwt. Qrs				£	s.	d.
Waste Paper	...	...	...	35	2	0	...	242	17	11
Bones	...	...	...	4	3	1	...	19	11	7
Textiles	...	...	...	1	19	3	...	29	12	11
Rubber	...	...	...	3	14	0	...	9	5	0
Ferrous Metal	...	...	...		6	2	...		13	0
Non-Ferrous Metal	...	...	...		1	0	...		17	0
				<hr/>				<hr/>		
				45	6	2	...	302	17	5

## FOOD SUPPLY

The whole of the meat required by the butchers in the rural area continues to be dealt with at the Central Slaughter House in the Borough of Grantham by the Ministry of Food.

Periodical inspections have been made of all the food shops in the district.

The following unsound meat and other foods were surrendered and destroyed during the year:

Meat ...	...	...	...	53 lb.
Bacon	...	...	...	63 lb.
Tins evaporated milk	...	...	...	151 lb.
Meat Paste	...	...	...	21 lb.
Suet	...	...	...	13 lb.
Cereals	...	...	...	773 lb.

## KNACKER'S YARDS

Periodical inspections have been made of the two knacker's yards in the district, the one at Foston has been maintained in a satisfactory condition, but the one at Ancaster was found on several occasions in a very bad state, and although instructions were given to the occupier, very little improvement was made, and this licence should not be renewed in future.

## RAT AND MICE DESTRUCTION

The reward scheme for catching rats has continued in operation during the year with success.

A contract has been entered into with the Kesteven Executive War Agricultural Committee to destroy the rats on the Council's property.

Occupiers of private property have been given advice as to the best methods of dealing with rats.

## MILK SUPPLY

Three hundred and eighty-nine persons are registered under the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926, as Milk Producers, one new registration being made during the year.

Three firms retail Pasteurised Milk in the district.

Periodical inspections have been made during the year and the following defects remedied after informal notice had been served:

